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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/556,390	04/24/2000	Kathleen H. Young	1142.0081-03	7340

22852 7590 07/15/2003

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EXAMINER

VOGEL, NANCY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1636

20

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/556,390	YOUNG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nancy T. Vogel	1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-51 and 53-69 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-28 and 57-69 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 29-51, 53-56 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the response filed 4/9/03. Claims 1-51, and 53-69 are pending.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 29-51, and 53-56 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12, 25-33, 35 and 36 of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,808 in view of Bachovin (USP 5,580,979)(previously cited). This is a new rejection.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the present claims are drawn to methods using yeast cells in a two hybrid assay and which comprise luciferase as a reporter gene, while the claims of USP 5,989,808 are drawn to the same methods using yeast cells containing any reporter gene. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use

luciferase as a reporter gene in a two hybrid assay since it is taught in the prior art as an equivalent reporter gene in the yeast two hybrid assay (see Bachovin, col. 20, line 60 – col. 21, line 19).

Claims 29-51 and 53-56 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 49-60, 73-81, 83, 84 of copending Application No. 09/714,258 in view of Bachovin (USP 5,580,979). This is a new rejection.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the present claims are drawn to methods using yeast cells in two hybrid assays, the yeast cells comprising luciferase as a reporter gene, while the claims of Application no. 09/714,258 are drawn to the same methods using yeast cells containing any reporter gene. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use luciferase as a reporter gene in a two hybrid assay since it is taught in the prior art as an equivalent reporter gene in the yeast two hybrid assay (see Bachovin, col. 20, line 60 - col. 21, line 19).

Conclusion

Claims 1-28 and 57-69 are allowed. Claims 29-51, and 53-56 are rejected.

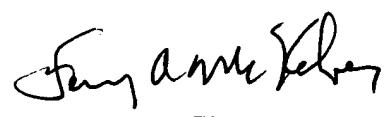
Claims 1-51 and 53-69 are free of prior art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy T. Vogel whose telephone number is (703) 308-4548. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 4:00, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Irem Yucel, Ph.D. can be reached on (703) 305-1998. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3014 for regular communications and (703) 305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

ntv
July 11, 2003



TERRY MCKELVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER